GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2283
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
HANUMANT RAO AND MOHAN DHARIA COMMITTEE REPORTS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hanumant Rao Committee and Mohan Dharia Committee constituted by the Government have submitted their reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the said recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF- UD- DIN SOZ)

(a)&(b) As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of land Resources, the Hanumantha Rao Committee submitted its report in 1994 and the Mohan Dharia Committee submitted its report in 1995.

As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources the Hanumantha Rao Committee was constituted to examine the manner of implementation of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). The Committee identified the blocks to be included under DPAP and DDP. The Committee also recommended that these programmes along with IWDP and other land development programmes should be implemented through peoples` participation by adopting watershed approach.

The highlights of the Mohan Dharia Committee as reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land resources are as under:

-Master plan for development of degraded and wastelands

-Central Land Use Authority and Similar Authorities at the State or Lower Levels.

-Creation of a Department of Land Resources.

-Integrated Scientific Approach and Co-ordination.

-Involvement of people, Gram Panchayat and NGOs.

-No constraints of funds.

-Protection of Forests and Soils.

-Protection of non-degraded forests and agricultural land.

-Waterlogging and salinisation.

-Better resource management key to poverty alleviation.

-Supply of quality seeds and plants.

-Decentralisation for effective implementation.

-Employment to millions, care of environment and sustainable development.

-People`s movement for national programme.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources accepted the recommendation of Hanumantha Rao Committee and consequently the `Guidelines for Watershed Development`, popularly knows as common guidelines were framed and made effective from 01.04.1995. All three programmes, viz. DPAP, DDP, and IWDP are since being implemented in accordance with

provisions of the common guidelines on watershed development.

Following action have been taken by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources on the Mohan Dharia Committee

i. A separate Department -Department of Land Resources has been put in place to deal with all the area Development Programmes, viz. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme.

ii. States have been requested to prepare 10-15 years` Perspective Plans for proper land use and wastelands development.

iii. The Common Guidelines have been modified to provide for one-third of the membership of Watershed Committee to women.

iv. For reclamation of water logged and saline soils, pilot projects have been sanctioned for Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

v. Creation of a Watershed Development Fund for post project maintenance of assets has been included in the Common Guidelines.